

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Production of Pharmaceuticals in the Former L. Spiess Plant in Tarchomin	DATE DISTR.	6 April 1954	25X1
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	NO. OF PAGES	2 <input type="text"/>	
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
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1. The pre-war pharmaceutical establishment of L. Spiess is located at Tarchomin near Warsaw. Reconstruction of the Spiess factory, which was considerably damaged during the war, was begun in 1948 by the state, and continued until 1950, when production was begun. In

1950 the production of bulk (amorphous) penicillin amounted to nearly a billion units, and by 1952 the production had increased to 500 billion units; about 90% of the pharmaceuticals produced at Tarchomin consisted of penicillin. During 1953 the penicillin production is expected to amount to nearly 1 trillion units, and production should increase apace until 1955.

2. As of early November 1953 the factory was producing penicillin crystals, penicillin procaine or polocain, penicillin tablets and salve, penicillin combined with sodium citrate, and penicillin calcium. In addition to penicillin preparations, the factory produces novarsan, liver preparations, Vitamin B-12 and Vitamin D, and it is expected that eventually streptomycin will be manufactured. Before the end of 1953, or early in 1954, the factory will begin the production of sulphanilamide, sulphathiazole, and antibiotics.

3. The L. Spiess factory employs about 1,600 workers, divided into two shifts.

4. Despite the constantly increasing production of vital drugs, there exists in Poland a shortage of the drugs mentioned above and a shortage of vitamin preparations as well. Not even the state hospitals are supplied with these drugs, and the hospitals must resort to buying penicillin and streptomycin from private individuals who have received these drugs from relatives abroad. The hospitals encourage Poles to write to relatives or acquaintances abroad to send these scarce medicines.

5. Another "miracle drug," Rimofon, is found in very limited quantity in Poland. The only Rimofon available for use in the state hospitals is that which has been

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imported, i.e., sent to private individuals by relatives living abroad; the state medicine shops purchase the drug from private individuals. Apparently not much is yet known in Poland about Rimofon, or whether the drug produces unfavorable aftereffects.

6. The following has been given as the reason for the shortage of "wonder drugs" in Poland. Since the beginning of 1952 nearly the entire pharmaceutical production at Tarchomin has, on orders from Moscow, been shipped to China and Korea; the drugs have been specially prepared and packed so as to enable laymen or soldiers to administer the drugs themselves.
7. Some of the medicinal preparations are shipped from Poland to China and Korea by sea, but the greater portion is shipped by railroad through the Soviet Union. The same transport route is used for shipment of other materials as well, so it may be that some of the shipments are retained in the Soviet Union.

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